

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) ~~A Protective~~ protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization of vinyl esters ~~characterized by the fact that it consists of~~ comprising hydroxypropylguar having a degree of molar substitution of from 1 to 4, and a 2% viscosity ranging from 1,000 to 25,000 mPa*s.
2. (currently amended) The ~~Protective~~ protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion ~~polymerisation~~ of vinyl esters according to claim 1., wherein the hydroxypropylguar has a degree of molar substitution of from 1.5 to 3.
3. (currently amended) The ~~Protective~~ protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion ~~polymerisation~~ of vinyl esters according to claim 1. ~~or 2.~~, wherein the hydroxypropylguar is ~~reticulated~~ crosslinked with from 0.3 to 1.5% by weight of glyoxal.
4. (currently amended) The ~~Protective~~ protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion ~~polymerisation~~ of vinyl esters according to claim 3., wherein the hydroxypropylguar is ~~reticulated~~ crosslinked with from 0.4 to 0.8% by weight of glyoxal.
5. (currently amended) The ~~Protective~~ protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion ~~polymerisation~~ of vinyl esters according to claim 3. ~~or 4.~~, wherein the ~~reticulated~~ crosslinked hydroxypropylguar is obtained by treating hydroxypropylguar with from 2 to 3% by weight of glyoxal.
6. (currently amended) The ~~Protective~~ protective colloid for the aqueous emulsion ~~polymerisation~~ of vinyl esters according to claim 5., wherein the

reticulated crosslinked hydroxypropylguar is obtained by treating hydroxypropylguar with from 2.2 to 2.8% by weight of glyoxal.

7. (currently amended) The ~~Protective~~ protective colloid ~~for the aqueous emulsion polymerisation of vinyl esters according to claim 5. or 6., wherein~~ the treatment takes place at room temperature with glyoxal dissolved in water at pH lower than 6 and with a subsequent 30-90 minutes long washing step with water at pH lower than 6.

8. (currently amended) ~~Aqueous emulsion of polyvinyl esters containing from 0.3 to 4 % by weight of hydroxypropylguar, the percentage being referred to the weight of polyvinyl ester. An aqueous polyvinyl ester emulsion comprising at least one polyvinyl ester and hydroxypropylguar wherein the hydroxypropylguar is present at a concentration of from 0.3 to 4 weight percent of the weight concentration of the at least one polyvinyl ester.~~

9. (currently amended) ~~Aqueous emulsion of polyvinyl esters containing from 1 to 3 % by weight of hydroxypropylguar, the percentage being referred to the weight of polyvinyl ester. The aqueous polyvinyl ester emulsion according to claim 8., wherein the hydroxypropylguar is present at a concentration of from 1 to 3 weight percent of the weight concentration of the at least one polyvinyl ester.~~

10. (currently amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous polyvinyl ester emulsion of ~~polyvinyl esters according to claim 8. or 9., characterized by the fact that the~~ said at least one polyvinyl esters are is obtained by ~~co-polymerising~~ co-polymerizing from 65 to parts to 75 parts by weight of vinyl acetate with from 25 to 35 parts by weight of vinyl versatate.

11. (new) The protective colloid according to claim 2, wherein the hydroxypropylguar is crosslinked with from 0.3 to 1.5% by weight of glyoxal.
12. (new) The protective colloid according to claim 4., wherein the crosslinked hydroxypropylguar is obtained by treating hydroxypropylguar with from 2 to 3% by weight of glyoxal.
13. (new) The protective colloid according to claim 12., wherein the crosslinked hydroxypropylguar is obtained by treating hydroxypropylguar with from 2.2 to 2.8% by weight of glyoxal.
14. (new) The protective colloid according to claim 6., wherein the treatment takes place at room temperature with glyoxal dissolved in water at pH lower than 6 and with a subsequent 30-90 minutes long washing step with water at pH lower than 6.
15. (new) The aqueous polyvinyl ester emulsion according to claim 9., characterized by the fact that the at least one polyvinyl ester is obtained by co-polymerizing from 65 to parts to 75 parts by weight of vinyl acetate with from 25 to 35 parts by weight of vinyl versatate.